

RARE BIRD REPORT--SIGHT RECORD

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2000 - 91

REPORT FILED BY: Alan E. Versaw
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Red 4/28/00 upl

SPECIES: White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)
DATE(S): April 26, 2000
OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: Undetermined PLUMAGE: Adult (apparently quite fresh)
LAT/LONG: 19 ELEVATION: 6200 ft
TIME OF DAY: 0845 LOCALITY: Bear Creek Regional Park
NEAREST TOWN: Colorado Springs (within city limits) COUNTY: El Paso
DURATION OF OBSERVATION: 4-5 minutes
OTHER OBSERVERS: none

LIGHT CONDITIONS: brilliant morning light

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: Bushnell 8 X 42 Natureviews

DISTANCE: As close as about 12 feet

PHOTO DATA: none

BIRD BEHAVIOR: The bird was foraging quite actively in tangles of vines and shrubs. The bird stayed almost exclusively within three feet of the ground at all times. Did not interact with any other birds or animals. The pace at which the bird moved was reminiscent of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, though the bird stayed lower in the vegetation than a RCKI normally would.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD: The bird was had a distinct greenish cast (accentuated by bright morning sunlight) to its back and also somewhat on the top and back of the head. I noted no strong contrast between the color of the back and the back of the head, but was more intent on other marks once I got to the point where I thought this might be a White-eyed Vireo. Two distinct wingbars, with the upper bar shorter than the lower one. Yellow flanks, not terribly bright yellow, but distinctly yellow nonetheless. Flanks faded toward white in the belly. Bright yellow band over the top of the vireo bill—contrasting vividly with the color of the rest of the head—and extending back to the eyes. Very pale eyes. Very light gray, almost white, chin and throat. The tail was, frankly, rather non-descript

SONG AND/OR CALL: No vocalizations made during the time I watched the bird.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: A decidedly artificial habitat for Colorado Springs, tangles of vines (unidentified) and shrubs (unidentified) with a few smaller trees (at least some cottonwoods mixed in). A small creek runs about 20-30 feet from where I found the bird. Total area of specific habitat in which bird was found was less than one acre.

ELIMINATION OF SIMILAR SPECIES: Cassin's Vireo should have dark eyes and white spectacles. Yellow-throated Vireo should have yellow throat and dark eyes. Philadelphia Vireo has dark eyes and an eye-line instead of spectacles. Ruby-crowned Kinglet (my first guess as to the identity of the bird when I saw a small, greenish bird moving rapidly, but purposefully, through the foliage) has an obvious eye-ring but no spectacles, dark eyes, and no yellow flanks. Upon closer inspection, this bird also proved a tad too large for a Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR BIRDS: I have seen White-eyed Vireos before only in Texas and nearly four years ago by now. I am very familiar with both the Cassin's Vireo and the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, but have never seen a Philadelphia Vireo.

REFERENCES CONSULTED: National Geo guide, 3rd edition

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SIGNATURE: